

TOWN OF KENT

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been First Selectman of Kent for 7+ years. Previously I was a Selectman and during that time we dropped the Resident Trooper program due to budget issues. At that time our cost(70%) was \$100,000. Four years later we reinstated the program and are very happy with the program and our Trooper. A few years ago our share increased to 85%, which I thought was unfair, especially when it was done after our town budget had already been approved. Now a proposal for towns to pay 100% is before us. Will we drop the program? Probably not, but it will be discussed. But because we can't get the numbers from the State we don't even know what that number might be. However there are a few other pertinent points:

- It was unfair at 70%, more unfair at 85% and bordering on illegal at 100%, to expect towns to pay for something over which we have no control. We are not present during contract negotiations nor are we consulted. This is like my board of Selectmen setting a budget without any input from the taxpayers.
- It is also unfair to expect us to pay for a person who can at any time be called to assist elsewhere. I have no problem with this practice from a public safety standpoint but it is a good reason why the State should continue to cover some of the cost.
- Finally it is very likely that some towns will drop the Resident Trooper program if this proposal holds up. the result will be a cost increase for the State when these Troopers will be 100% funded by the State.

Rather than come across as all negative, I propose the following: Reduce the cost of a Trooper and see if some non-Trooper towns might consider adding one. Probably not but certainly worth a try.

Bruce Adams
First Selectman-Kent

TOWN OF KENT

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer”

41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678 • Kent, CT 06757-0678

Phone: (860) 927-4627 • Fax: (860) 927-1313 • www.townofkentct.org